

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

OKAMURA et al.

Art Unit: Not yet Assigned

Application No.: Div. of 09/033,651

Examiner: Not yet Assigned

Filed: August 6, 2001

Atty Docket No. 100725-00047

For: HYDRODYNAMIC TYPE POROUS OIL-IMPREGNATED BEARING

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D. C. 20231

August 6, 2001

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified Application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please add claims 28-33 as follows:

-- 28. (New) A method of producing a hydrodynamic porous oil-impregnated bearing comprising a porous bearing body being formed with a bearing surface on an inner peripheral surface thereof, said bearing surface having a plurality of inclined hydrodynamic pressure generating grooves, and oil retained in pores of said bearing body by impregnation of lubricating oil or lubricating grease, said method comprising the steps of:

inserting a forming pattern in an inner peripheral surface of a cylindrical porous blank, said porous blank being made of a sintered metal, said forming pattern having a forming portion for forming said hydrodynamic pressure generating grooves, said forming portion being composed of a plurality of convex portions each of which agrees with each of said hydrodynamic pressure generating grooves, and

applying a compacting pressure to said porous blank to press the inner peripheral

surface of said porous blank against said forming portion of said forming pattern, thereby forming said hydrodynamic pressure generating grooves in the inner peripheral surface of said porous blank.

29. (New) A method of producing a hydrodynamic type porous oil-impregnated bearing as set forth in claim 28, wherein said sintered metal contains copper or iron, or both as a main component.

30. (New) A method of producing a hydrodynamic type porous oil-impregnated bearing as set forth in claim 28, wherein after forming said hydrodynamic pressure generating grooves, removing said compacting pressure, releasing said forming pattern from the inner peripheral surface of said porous blank whilst utilizing spring-back of said porous blank due to the removal of said compacting pressure.

31. (New) A method of producing a porous bearing body of a hydrodynamic type porous oil-impregnated bearing, said porous bearing body being formed with bearing surface on an inner peripheral surface thereof, said bearing surface having a plurality of inclined hydrodynamic pressure generating grooves, said method comprising the steps of:

inserting a forming pattern in an inner peripheral surface of a cylindrical porous blank, said porous blank being made of a sintered metal, said forming pattern having a forming portion for forming said hydrodynamic pressure generating grooves, said forming portion being composed of a plurality of convex portions each of which agrees with each of said hydrodynamic press generating grooves, and

applying a compacting pressure to said porous blank to press the inner peripheral surface of said porous blank against said forming portion of said forming pattern, thereby forming said hydrodynamic pressure generating grooves in the inner peripheral surface of said porous blank.

32. (New) A method of producing a porous bearing body of a hydrodynamic type porous oil-impregnated bearing as set forth in claim 31, wherein said sintered metal contains copper or iron, or both as a main component.

33. (New) A method of producing a porous bearing body of a hydrodynamic type

porous oil-impregnated bearing as set forth in claim 31, wherein after forming said hydrodynamic pressure generating grooves, removing said compacting pressure, releasing said forming pattern from the inner peripheral surface of said porous blank whilst utilizing spring-back of said porous blank due to the removal of said compacting pressure.

**REMARKS**

Claims 17-33 are pending in the Application. By this Amendment, claims 28-33 are added.

Prompt and courteous examination on the merits is respectfully requested. In view of the applied art cited in previous Office Actions, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the Application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

In the event additional fees are required, please charge Counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

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